

# Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Division of Disease Prevention (DDP) Monthly Ebulletin



<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention>

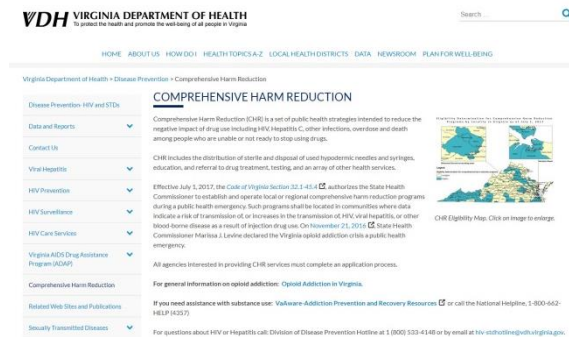
[Prevention](#) | [Care](#) | [Surveillance](#) | [STDs](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Social Media](#)

July 2017 Edition

[View as PDF](#)

## Comprehensive Harm Reduction Resources

Effective July 1, 2017, the [Code of Virginia Section 32.1-45.4](#), authorizes the State Health Commissioner to establish and operate local or regional comprehensive harm reduction (CHR) programs, including distribution of sterile and disposal of use hypodermic needles and syringes during a public health emergency. DDP has created a [webpage](#) that contains all relevant documents and materials needed for sites to apply to operate CHR programs in cities and counties determined to be at increased risk for an HIV or Hepatitis C outbreak. A list of eligible localities can also be found on the web page.



In the near future, DDP will be hosting a webinar to provide additional information on the application process. The Virginia HIV/AIDS Resource and Consultation Center (VHARCC) will be providing blood-borne pathogen trainings by webinar on Wednesday July 19 at 2pm and Monday July 31 at 3:30pm. An in-person training will be conducted on July 21 at 10:00 am in Norfolk. See the [VHARCC training calendar](#) for more information. Questions or technical assistance requests can be directed to [Bruce Taylor](#) at (804) 864-8015, or [Elaine Martin](#) at (804) 864-7962.

[Return to Top](#)

## AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Update

Please note ADAP application and re-certification materials have been updated on the [website](#).

[Return to Top](#)

## Navigation

- [Comprehensive Harm Reduction Services](#)
- [ADAP Update](#)
- [ACA Open Enrollment](#)
- [New Resources on Drug Resistant Gonorrhea](#)
- [amfAR Launches New Database](#)
- [ADAP Formulary Update](#)
- [CHPG Seeks New Members](#)
- [Transgender Health Study in Virginia](#)
- [Consumer Trainings in Quality](#)
- [Upcoming QMAC Meeting](#)
- [CHARLI Funding Awarded](#)
- [Personnel](#)

## VDH Messages

To ensure you receive e-mail messages, such as the DDP E-Bulletin or announcements about funding opportunities, please check that important DDP contacts (such as your contract monitor) are in your address book so that their e-mails are not sent to your spam or junk folders. Check those folders regularly to see if you have missed messages.

## Affordable Care Act (ACA) Open Enrollment

The 2018 ACA Open Enrollment Period is from November 1, 2017 until December 15, 2017. **This is a shortened 45-day open enrollment period.** The Virginia (VA) ADAP is currently reviewing preliminary 2018 ACA plan information. VA ADAP will begin intensive outreach with clients and providers soon and will include information on the shortened enrollment period and important carrier information.

[Return to Top](#)

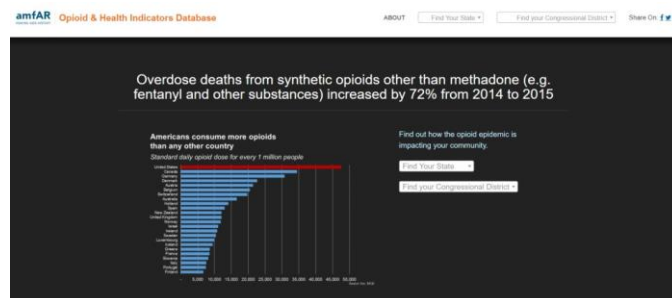
## New Resources on Drug Resistant Gonorrhea

Keeping an eye on antibiotic resistance has never been more important. [Concerning developments](#) reported last year suggest that gonorrhea may be beginning to outsmart our last [recommended treatment](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed new tools to ensure communities are aware of the emerging threat of drug-resistant gonorrhea:

- A new [video animation](#) is raising awareness about drug-resistant gonorrhea. It illustrates gonorrhea's history of overpowering almost every drug ever used to treat it. Additionally, the current battles we face as the bacterium evolves are illustrated. The dangers of this common infection becoming untreatable are also discussed.
- The 2015 [Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project \(GISP\) Profiles](#) is also available. In addition to the national antimicrobial susceptibility results included in the [2015 Sexually Transmitted Diseases \(STD\) Surveillance Report](#), the GISP Profiles provide a one-stop resource that gives the most up-to-date national and local CDC antimicrobial susceptibility data. For more than 30 years, these data have helped public health officials successfully treat gonorrhea.

[Return to Top](#)

## amfAR Launches Opioid & Health Indicators Database



amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, has launched an [Opioid & Health Indicators database](#) that provides a window into the opioid epidemic unfolding across the United

States. The free resource was designed to support communities, lawmakers, and advocates in making informed decisions, and includes various health indicators associated with the opioid epidemic: hepatitis C prevalence by state, acute hepatitis C cases, and funding from the CDC for hepatitis C. Where available, hepatitis C data are also available by county and congressional district.

## ADAP Enrollment Numbers as of 6/13/17

- Total Clients Enrolled: 6,236
- Direct ADAP Clients: 1,651
- Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP) Clients: 567
- Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP) Clients: 541
- Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program (HIMAP) Enrollment Clients: 3,477

## 2017 HIMAP Enrollment Numbers

- Re-enrolled for 2017 (have all information): 2,976
- New Enrollments for 2017: 472

## Hepatitis C/HIV Treatment Assistance Program Numbers

- Total Clients that have Accessed Program: 86
- Clients that have Completed Therapy: 73
- Clients Currently on Treatment: 8

## ADAP Listserv

To request to be added to the ADAP Listserv to receive updates, please contact [Carrie Rhodes](#) at (804) 864-7914.

## HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) as of 6/19/17

- Clients currently receiving PrEP: 184
- [PrEP Services Locator](#)

[Return to Top](#)

## Formulary Update

Effective June 5, 2017, 15 new medications were added to the VA ADAP Formulary; these include antiemetics, antilipidemics, antihyperglycemics, GERD agents, and osteoporosis prevention. Visit the ADAP website to view the updated [formulary](#).

[Return to Top](#)

## Community HIV Planning Group (CHPG) Seeks New Members

The CHPG is currently seeking new members. Although there is particular need for transgender individuals, persons from the Northwest health region, and persons with a history of injection drug use, all interested Virginia residents are encouraged to apply.

The CHPG is an advisory committee for DDP on issues pertaining to HIV prevention and care in the state. The committee meets six times a year, for a full day, in the Richmond area. For more information or to apply, visit DDP's [website](#).

Interested parties may also contact HIV Prevention Planner [Bruce Taylor](#) or HIV Care Services Planner [Renate Nnoko](#) with inquiries about CHPG membership.

[Return to Top](#)

## Transgender Health Study in Virginia

In partnership with the University of Virginia, DDP is developing a survey of transgender persons in Virginia. The purpose of the study is to describe health behaviors, understand life experiences, and identify need for services among the transgender community. This study expands upon the original Virginia Transgender Health Initiative Study, a multi-phase, multi-year project which began in 2005. The updated survey will help to inform public health program planning and identify ways to improve health care access for all transgender persons in Virginia. On June 8, a Transgender Advisory Group from across the state met to discuss topics of focus for survey development. The Advisory Group will plan to meet periodically over the course of the project to guide study implementation and provide subject matter expertise. For more information on the study or how to become involved, please contact [Lauren Yerkes](#).

[Return to Top](#)

## Consumer Trainings in Quality

DDP, in collaboration with the Eastern Virginia Medical School, HIV/AIDS Resource and Consultation Center, will hold five Consumer Trainings in Quality (CTQ). The purpose of the CTQ is to increase the number of consumers participating in local quality management activities. The training dates for the CTQ are:

- Eastern - July 19 in Norfolk
- Central - August 2 in Richmond
- Southwest - August 9 in Danville

## The Community Advancement Project (CAP)

The Community Advancement Project (CAP) meets regionally as an advisory board to identify and assess needs of gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color, including mental health, PrEP awareness, substance abuse, domestic violence, perceptions of LGBT persons of color in the media, health testing, stigma, access to treatment, and more. If you would like to participate or receive more information, please contact [Adyam Redae](#).

## Stay Connected!

Check out upcoming events on the DDP [HIV Prevention webpage](#). You can request to have your own events added to the calendar and our Facebook page through the Event Submission Form, located on the events page under the events calendar.

For those using a compatible web browser, you may also download the [Event Submission Form](#) directly and submit it following the directions at the bottom of the sheet. "Like" our DDP [Facebook page](#) and share it with your friends to stay connected socially and hear about events throughout the state.

- Northwest - August 29 in Charlottesville
- Northern - in September, day and location TBD

VDH is asking for your help to widely circulate this information. Please share this information to all people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) who:

- have the ability and commitment to join in local and regional quality improvement activities,
- are allied with, volunteer for, or work with programs funded by the Ryan White Program, or
- might be interested in participating in these trainings.

The training programs will provide participants with ideas and solutions that translate into improved outcomes for their communities. To learn more, please contact [Safere Diawara](#).

[Return to Top](#)

### Upcoming Quality Management Advisory Committee Meeting

DDP continues to strengthen the Quality Management Advisory Committee (QMAC). The next QMAC Quarterly meeting is August 30 in Charlottesville. Meetings build capacity among Ryan White providers and consumers through various activities. Participants conduct quality improvement activities and enlarge the pool of quality improvement leaders statewide. To learn more about the upcoming meeting, please contact [Safere Diawara](#).

[Return to Top](#)

### Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Resources and Linkages for Inmates Funding Awarded

The Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Resources and Linkages for Inmates (CHARLI) program is completed. CHARLI is a continuum of care program including HIV/STD education and HIV testing for inmates preparing for release, and pre- and post-release case management services after release from incarceration. As of July 1, the following agencies will provide CHARLI services:

- **Health Brigade** - Central Region
- **Minority AIDS Support Services** - Eastern Region
- **Council of Community Services** - Southwest Region
- **University of Virginia** - Northwest Region
- **Inova Juniper Program** - Northern Region

Please direct any programmatic questions on these awards or the CHARLI program to [Susan Carr](#) at (804) 864-8023.

[Return to Top](#)

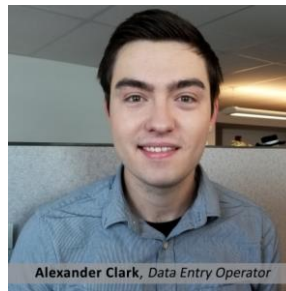
## PERSONNEL

### Welcome

**Darnell Barrington** joined DDP as the new Bridges 757 Project Coordinator in HIV Prevention. Darnell comes to us from VCU where he was a Research Associate for an NIH-funded clinical trial. He also worked with Minority Health Consortium as the Program Coordinator for two prevention programs serving black same gender loving men. He holds a Masters of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is a graduate of Virginia State University. He can be reached at [darnell.barrington@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:darnell.barrington@vdh.virginia.gov) or (804) 864-7877.



**Tia Crayton** joins the Virginia Disease Prevention Hotline as a Health Educator. Tia is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, and previously worked at VCU Health as a Rehabilitation Technician. As with all Hotline Health Educators, Tia can be reached at [hiv-stdhotline@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:hiv-stdhotline@vdh.virginia.gov) or (800) 533-4148.



**Alexander Clark** joins DDP as a Data Entry Operator in the STD unit. Alexander recently graduated from Virginia Tech with undergraduate degrees in both Biochemistry and Spanish. He can be reached at [alexander.clark@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:alexander.clark@vdh.virginia.gov).

### Congratulations

**Jeff Stover** has accepted the position of Operations Director for the Deputy Commissioner for Population Health. Jeff joined DDP in 1998 where he managed numerous STD and HIV programs and activities, including public health informatics initiatives. Most recently Jeff worked as the Director of STD Operations and Data Administration. Jeff received his Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Alabama-Birmingham and has extensive experience in the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, health disparities, and data management. Congratulations Jeff, and DDP looks forward to working with you in your new position!



### Farewell

**Ramon "R.J." Gomez's** last day on the Virginia Disease Prevention Hotline was July 7, 2017. RJ returned to medical school to pursue further education. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

**Joshua Thomas** resigned his position with HIV Prevention Services. HPS wishes him all the best as he pursues his educational and career goals. Questions about the Community Advancement Project should be referred to [Adyam Redae](#).

## Personnel Spotlight: Regional Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Coordinators

### DIS regions and DIS regional coordinator offices



Regional DIS Coordinators (RDC) will assist with DIS oversight statewide, including supervision of DIS assigned to local health departments within their assigned coverage areas, as well as providing assistance to local DIS supervisors. RDC position duties include quality

assurance review of cases before submission to the Central Office, ongoing assessment of cases pending investigation, DIS skills assessments, providing technical assistance, consultation and training as needed, and assistance with DIS coverage when necessary.

**Aimee Dickenson** has accepted the position of the Regional DIS Coordinator for the Western Region. She has been working as a DIS for the past seven years in the New River and Mount Rogers Health Districts. Aimee can be reached at (276) 988-5585 or [aimee.dickenson@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:aimee.dickenson@vdh.virginia.gov).



**Megan Rei** is the Regional DIS Coordinator for the Northern Region. She has been with VDH since 2012 and previously worked as the DIS in Prince William County. Megan works out of the Prince William/Woodbridge office and can be reached at [megan.rei@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:megan.rei@vdh.virginia.gov) or (804) 837-0289.

**Stacey Dennis** is the Regional DIS Coordinator for the Eastern Region. Stacey previously worked as a DIS in Baltimore, MD for 12 years. Stacey's office is located in the Norfolk Health Department and she can be reached at [stacey.dennis@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:stacey.dennis@vdh.virginia.gov) or (757) 683-2800.

**Tangye Harris** is the Regional DIS Coordinator for the Central Region. Tangye works out of the Central Office in Richmond. She can be reached at [tangye.harris@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:tangye.harris@vdh.virginia.gov) or (804) 864-8047.

[Return to Top](#)